

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: December 13, 2019

Residential Holiday Lighting Judging

Members of the City Council and family members will be out judging the nominations for the Residential Holiday Lighting contest on Monday, December 16th. Nominations can continue to be submitted until 5:00 pm Friday, December 13th. The winners and nominees will be announced on Wednesday next week and included in The Sentinel so residents can go tour the lights in the City.

Youth Advisory Council

The Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council will be meeting on Monday, December 16th from 6:45 to 8:00 pm. They will be beginning the plans for the 2020 Youth Town Hall.

Christmas in Downtown

Thank you to everyone that helped with the Christmas in Cottage Grove last weekend. Even with the rain, it did not dampen the holiday spirit. Santa and Mrs. Claus had a great time meeting kids throughout the day. The crowd at City Hall was about the normal size.

Thank you to the crew for the wonderful light display in All-America City Square and for the beautiful tree. There were some technical difficulties that occurred but quick thinking and efforts got most lights working for Santa and everything is working now. Thank you also to the YAC members that decorated the tree in City Hall.

Debit/Credit Cards Now Accepted for Most Fees as a Convenience to Our Customers

The City's fee schedule was amended to allow, as a convenience to our customers, the ability to accept card payments for most fees, including but not limited to Court fines, Court Costs, Court ordered restitution, dog licenses, finger printing fees, library fines, lost book fees, etcetera, when using a debit or credit card. A fee for the convenience was established on a sliding scale, to recuperate the costs involved with accepting payment by debit or credit card. A debit or credit card will not be accepted for any fee under the amount of \$5. The fee does not apply to any payment of recurring utility billing payments, or utility billing payments taken on-line or at the Finance Office. Card processing equipment was installed this week at the Library, and is directly integrated with the City's financial software.

Shop With a Cop

On December 12th, the Cottage Grove Police Department partnered with the local Walmart for Shop with a Cop. The goal was to make positive holiday experiences for children in need and their families. Children shopped with an Officer to find items for Christmas gifts for their family members and even a gift for themselves. Community Service Officer Tisha Fetter did all of the leg work and contacted Walmart to participate. She gathered all of the applications and volunteers for this event. Thank you Tisha.

Highway 99 Improvements coming in 2022

Safety upgrades are scheduled for construction in 2022 on ODOT's Highway 99 from Woodson Bridge to the Cottage Grove Connector Overpass. Orange vests worn by ODOT's consultants and surveyors have been in the neighborhood to begin gathering the information needed for design. There will be little impact on the general Cottage Grove public or those commuting through the area prior to construction.

The City of Cottage Grove identified this stretch of road, which connects homes to shopping and services, as dangerous for pedestrians in the Transportation System Plan (TSP) and requested ODOT funding.

To make the road safer for all, including pedestrians and bicyclists, the roadway will be reconfigured to one lane in each direction with a center turn lane. The project delivers new sidewalks with ADA ramps, bike lanes in both directions, and a cross walk with a rapid flashing beacon. A new signal will be installed at the Woodson Place intersection.

The project is not seeking general input on design, as that was accomplished previously in the development and adoption of the TSP.

However, the City of Cottage Grove is looking forward to keeping neighbors and citizens updated as the project moves forward. Further details on this project will be made available soon. In the meantime, please call Public Works Engineering at (541) 942-3340 with any questions.

Holiday Cookie Event at the Library

Please join the Friends of the Cottage Grove Library for their annual Holiday Cookies & Bilingual Storytime event on Monday, December 16th from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. This will be a fun holiday evening of songs, cookies, community and a very "Special Guest" will arrive. This is an all-ages family event so bring your friends and family and do join in the fun Monday evening.

Winter Break Collage Project

Please stop by the Cottage Grove Library during Winter Break to participate in an interactive collage project. The theme of this art endeavor is "Winter Celebration" and we encourage folks of all ages to stop by to express their art and creativity in this public art experience.

Board Game Check Out

The Cottage Grove Library has TONS of awesome board games that you can check out, take home, and enjoy with family and friends during these lovely rainy days. You also might want to check out a Ukulele while you are here, or maybe some cool baking pans or cookie cutters. Stop by soon to see our selection.

Snow Flakes at the Library

Stop by soon to create a very cool snow flake at the Library. You can make one freestyle and hang it here or take it home, or you can participate in our Snowflake STEAM Challenge where you learn about the science of snowflakes and make one using that inspiration. This is a great way to enjoy Winter Break, so please stop by soon to get in to the world of Snowflakes at the Cottage Grove Library.

Grief Support Group

Signature Hospice is offering free session for grief support and drop-ins are welcome. The focus will be on how to cope with the loss of a loved one around the holidays. Support Group meeting will be offered Tuesday, December 17th from 1:30 to 3:00 pm in the Activity Room at the Community Center.

Free Bus Passes for Seniors

Lane Transit District (LTD) will be offering free "Honored Rider" passes to Seniors 65 and older. Those interested in this opportunity can obtain a free pass at the Cottage Grove Community Center on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. (Proof of age required.)

Quote of the Week

“Christmas gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us.”

~David Cameron~